

**Science
&
*the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on
the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable
Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond
National Jurisdiction
(BBNJ Agreement)***

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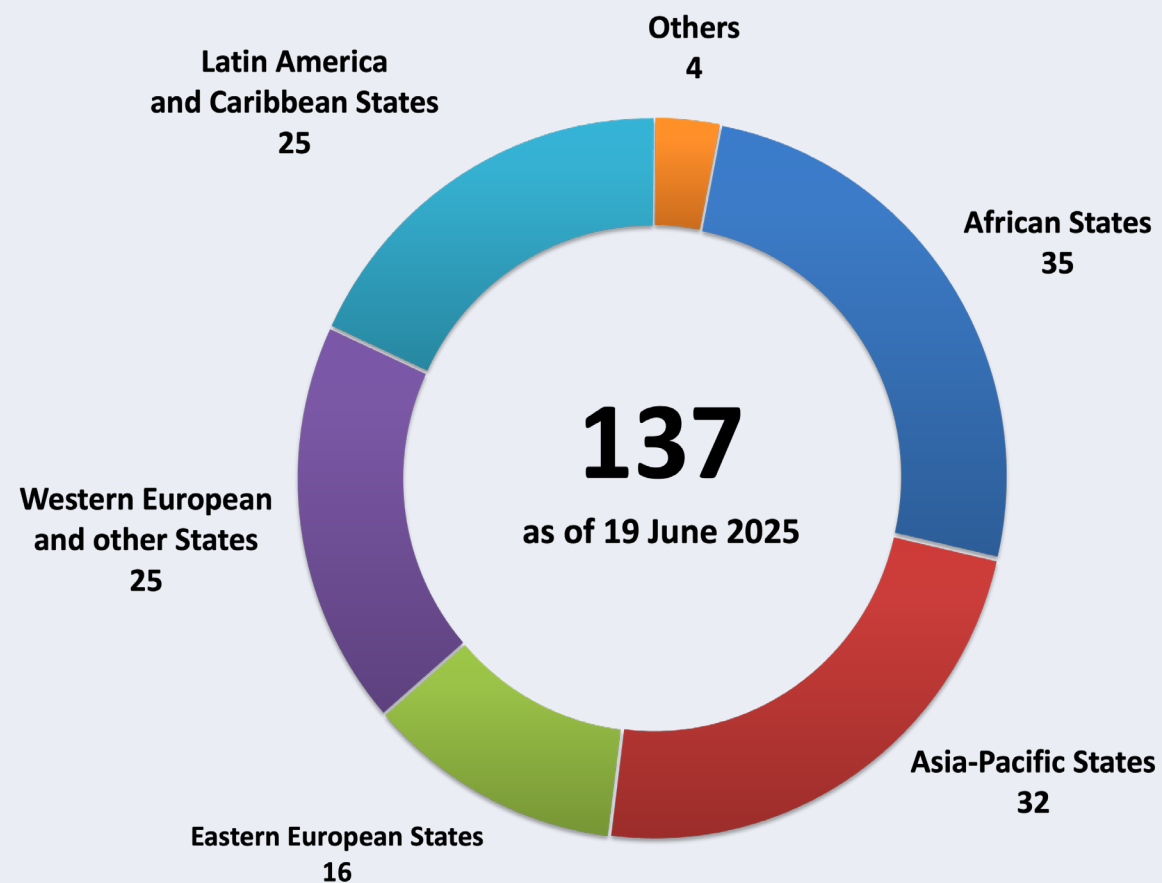
IOC Assembly, 25 June 2025

**“You have pumped
new life and hope to
give the ocean a
fighting chance.”**

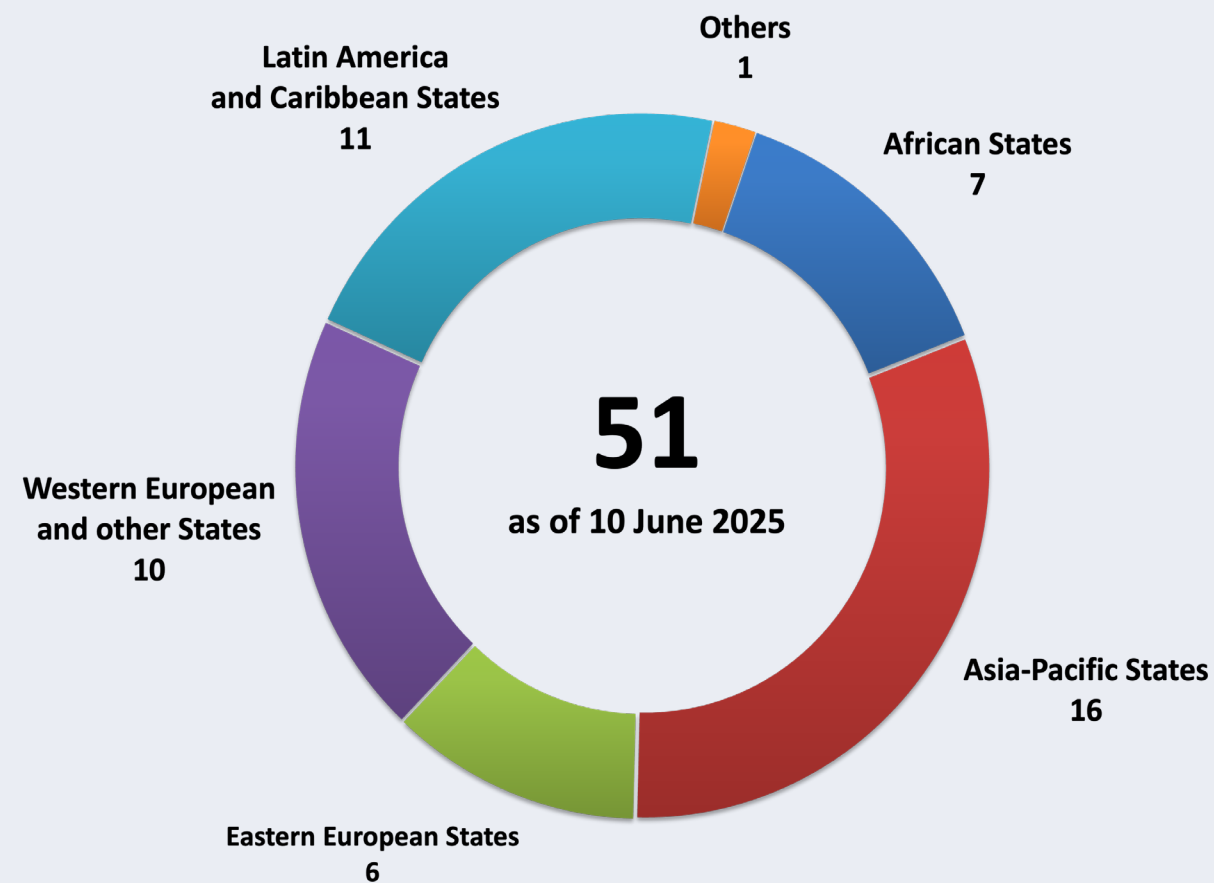
- António Guterres, UN Secretary-General



Current status of the BBNJ Agreement

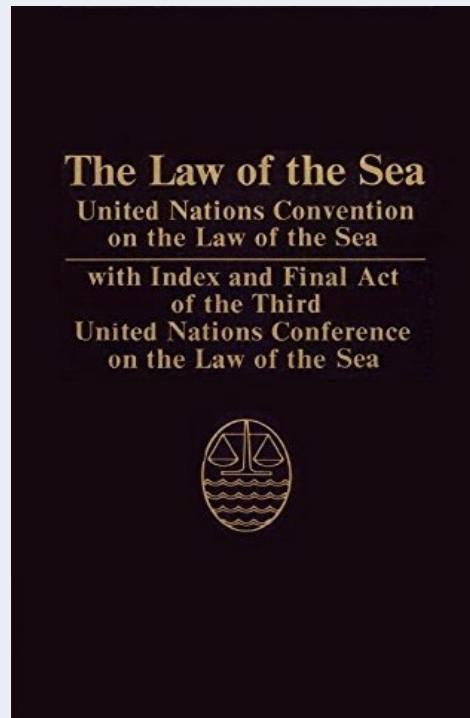


Signatories



Ratifications, approvals or acceptances

“UNCLOS family”

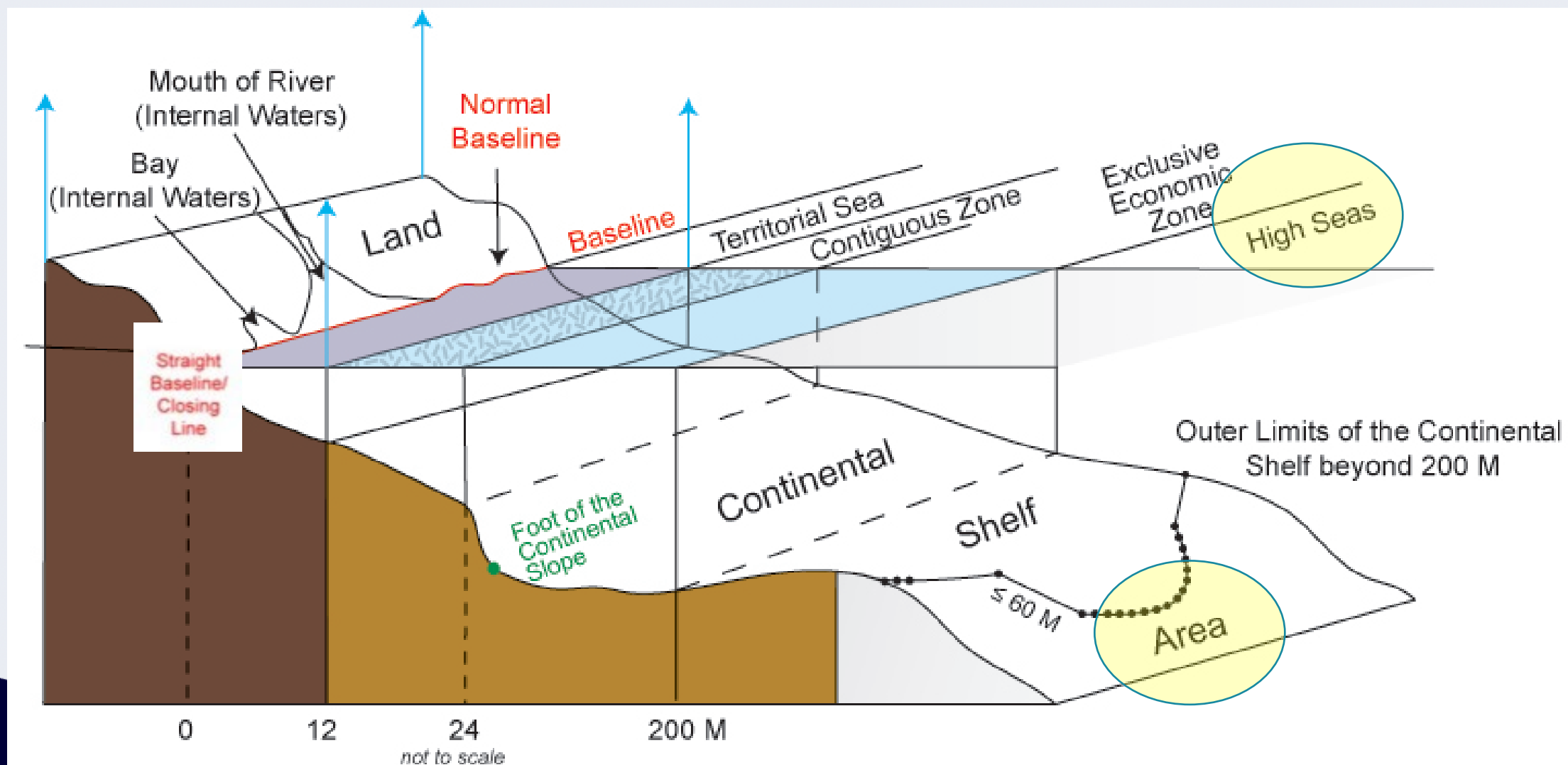


**Agreement relating to the
Implementation of Part XI
of the United Nations
Convention on the Law of
the Sea of 10 December
1982**

**Agreement for the
Implementation of the
Provisions of the United
Nations Convention on the
Law of the Sea of 10
December 1982 relating to the
Conservation and
Management of Straddling
Fish Stocks and Highly
Migratory Fish Stocks**

**Agreement under the United
Nations Convention on the
Law of the Sea on the
Conservation and
Sustainable Use of Marine
Biological Diversity of Areas
beyond National Jurisdiction
(BBNJ Agreement)**

Maritime zones – overview

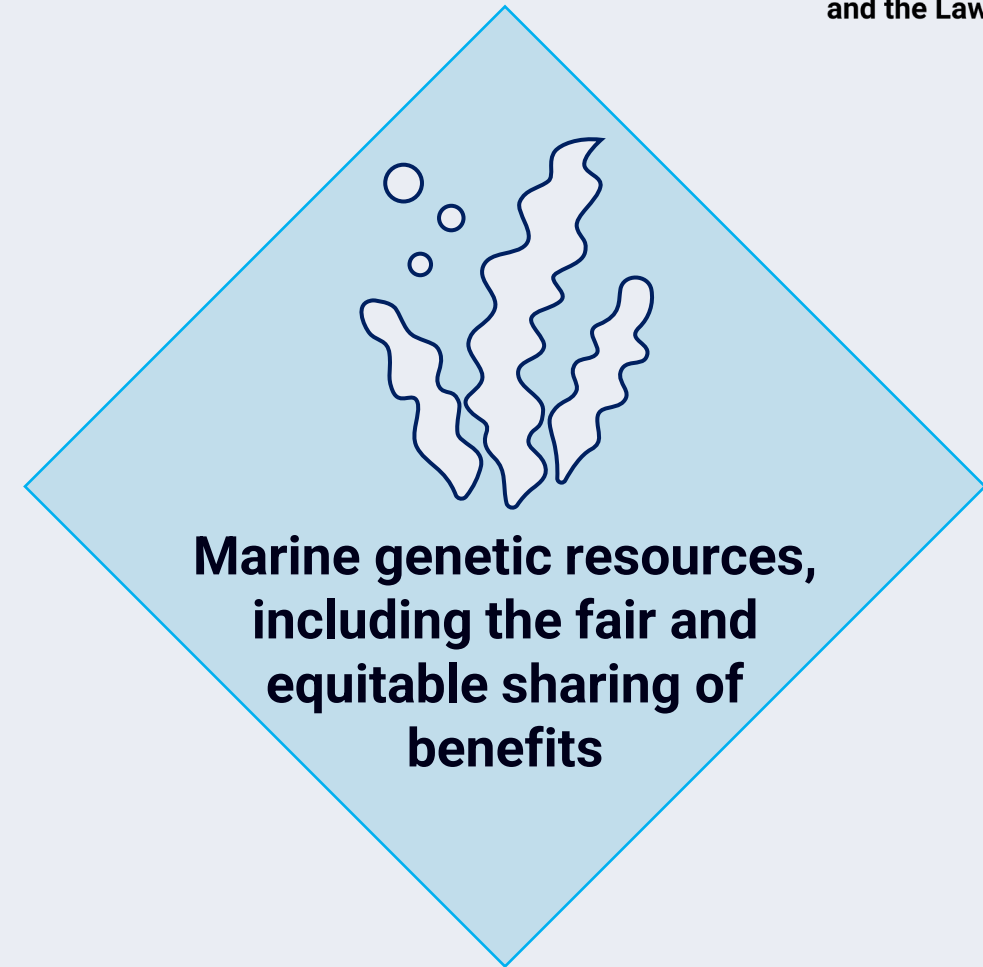


What is in the Agreement?



- A package of issues
- Cross-cutting issues
- Grounded in science

- Generation of knowledge, scientific understanding and technological innovation
- Sharing of both monetary and non-monetary benefits (MGRs + DSI)
- Access to traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

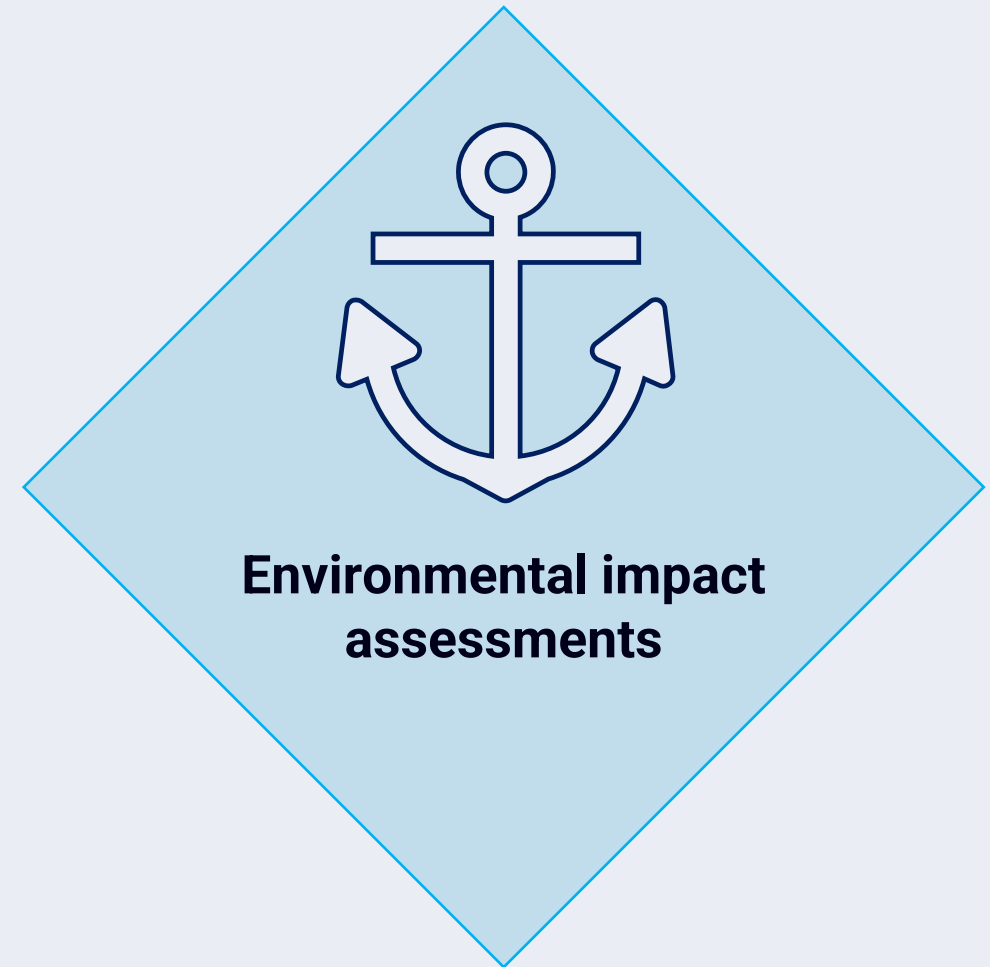




Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas

- Indicative criteria for identification
- Publicity, consultations, assessments of proposals
- Role of Scientific and Technical Body
- Monitoring and review

- Requirements for environmental impact assessments (EIAs)
- Development of standards and/or guidelines
- Public notification and consultation
- Roster of experts





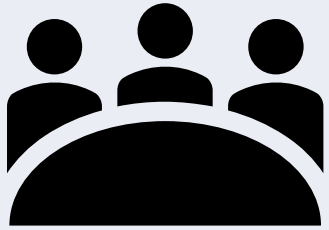
**Capacity-building
and the transfer of
marine technology**

- Obligation to cooperate in capacity-building (CB) and transfer of marine technology (TMT)
- Objective: develop marine scientific and technological capacity
- Indicative list of types of CB&TMT

Institutional arrangements



Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea



Conference of the Parties (COP)



Secretariat



**Scientific and
Technical Body**



**Access and Benefit-
Sharing Committee**



**Clearing-
House
Mechanism**



**Implementation
and Compliance
Committee**



**Capacity-Building
and Transfer of
Marine Technology
Committee**



**Finance
Committee**

Way forward ...



Open for signature: until 20 September 2025



Entry into force: 120 days after 60 instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession



First meeting of the Conference of the Parties: to be convened by the UN Secretary-General within one year after the entry into force of the Agreement

BBNJ Agreement Preparatory Commission

❖ **Established by UNGA Resolution 78/272 of 24 April 2024**

The Commission:

- Shall **prepare** for the **entry into force** of the BBNJ Agreement and the **convening of COP1**
- **Open** to all UN Member States, members of the specialized agencies and parties to UNCLOS
- Also open to **observers**
- **Co-Chairs:** H.E. Janine Coye-Felson (Belize) and Adam McCarthy (Australia)
- At least 2 sessions in **2025** (next session: 18-29 August) + at least one session in **2026**

Programme of Work

Governance issues

- Rules of procedure for COP*
- Terms of reference, modalities for the operation and rules of procedure for subsidiary bodies (ABS Committee, CBTMT* Committee, Finance Committee, Implementation and Compliance Committee*, STB*)
- Selection process for members of STB* and other subsidiary bodies
- Arrangements for functioning of the secretariat*
- Reporting requirements
- Arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant IFBs

Issues pertaining to the operation of the CHM

- Modalities for the operation of the CHM, such as:
 - a. Type, architecture and functionalities of the platform
 - b. Process for generating the “BBNJ” standardized batch identifier
 - c. Modalities to facilitate the matching of CB needs with the support available and with providers for the TMT
 - d. Terms of cooperation with relevant IFBs

Financial rules, and financial resources and mechanism

- Financial rules governing the funding of the COP, the secretariat and any subsidiary bodies*
- Arrangements with GEF to give effect to provisions on funding*
- Operationalization of provisions on financial resources and mechanism, e.g. [subject to further consultations]:
 - a. Establishment of the voluntary trust fund
 - b. Arrangements to give effect to provisions on the special fund
 - c. Scale of assessed contributions

Thank You



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